



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program

FROM: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Cara Peczkowski, Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Nutrition Programs

DATE: July 30, 2012

SUBJECT: Residential Child Care Institutions Exception for Safety if Serving Multiple Age/Grade Groups

Original Signed

This memorandum allows Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) meeting certain requirements to serve one meal pattern even when the age/grades being served span more than one age/grade group. The age/grade groups are set forth in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) meal patterns.

Specifically, this memorandum only applies to RCCIs that are:

1. juvenile detention or correctional facilities
2. consist of more than one age/grade group
3. have legitimate safety concerns or state juvenile justice laws or regulations related to offering meals with varying amounts of food within the same meal period.

For these facilities only, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) *may* permit the RCCI to serve NSLP/SBP meals with the same amount of food at the meal service. In such cases, RCCIs shall serve meals meeting the NSLP meal pattern in effect for the highest age/grade group represented, to ensure nutritional adequacy. The RCCIs that meet the requirements must obtain approval from ADE prior to implementing the option. ADE will consider RCCI requests to implement this option on a case-by-case basis where all three criteria are met.

This exception to the age/grade groups applies only to the situations described in this memo. Ensuring the health and safety of the children served by the program is critically important, and the United States Department of Agriculture will continue to monitor this issue during the implementation of the new meal pattern.

If you have any questions on this guidance, please contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist at 602-542-8700.

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